SHRI JAIRAM RAMESH (Andhra Pradesh): Sir, I also associate myself with the Special Mention.

SHRI JANARDHANA POOJARY (Karnataka): Sir, I associate with the special Mention made by the hon. Member.

DR. M.S. GILL (Punjab): Sir, I associate myself with it.

Concern over the Closure of Lone Project of Tiger Reserve in Chhattisgarh

SHRIMATI MOHSINA KIDWAI (Chhattisgarh): Mr. Deputy Chairman, Sir, in Chhattisgarh's Indravati National Park Tiger Reserve, no forest guard has entered for the last three years. Fifty-six revenue villages are surviving, virtually, outside the Government in a jungle where the People's War Group claims to run its own Government. Their presence has severely affected protection and conservation of wildlife. Not surprisingly, more than half of its tigers have been killed over the past five years. And the best timber in Baster is fast being converted into cash by the heavily armed timber mafia.

The naxalite threat, notwithstanding, tiger census reports are filed every year. There are claims that 31 tigers were counted in the 2005 Census, the highest since the Park came under Project Tiger in 1984 with 38 tigers. Villagers are unanimous that they have not seen any forest staff inside the Park for years. The staff is afraid to tour and undertake protection works. Moreover, out of the sanctioned strength of 147, 35 posts are lying vacant for a long time now.

Wild buffaloes, chitals, barking deer, nilgais and gaurs can be seen grazing in these areas while the Park has a sizeable population of tigers, leopards, striped hyenas, wolves and wild dogs. In view of such rare bio-diversity, around 2,800 sq. kms. area of Indravati National Park was declared as Tiger Reserve in 1984. The Naxalites have reportedly set almost all the wireless stations on fire. Besides, they instigate the tribal population to encroach, cut timber illegally and poach.

Now the Union Ministry has reportedly decided, in principle, to close it down. I request the Government to save this Tiger Reserve and intervene in the matter by providing protection.

Demand for Proper Disposal of Electronic Waste in the Country

DR. ALLADI P. RAJKUMAR (Andhra Pradesh): Mr. Deputy Chairman, Sir, I wish to draw the attention of the House to a serious problem of electronic waste that is being generated by the various electronic goods

industry. All kinds of electronic goods have become the household articles today. Every home has not one, but a number of electronic goods. Once these electronic products become obsolete or non-operative, they are either thrown in garbage or given to *kabariwala*. The *kabariwala* sells these products to scrap dealers who dismantle these gadgets and keep what is useful with them and the rest of it is thrown in garbage. In this way, millions of tonnes of e-waste is generated in various metropolitan cities. In Hyderabad, which is the IT hub of the country, and where many multinationals have their offices, tonnes of computers and their accessories are discarded. A number of components in these electronic products are hazardous and should be disposed of in an environment-friendly manner. Many of these products contain components that have toxic substances like lead, cadmium, mercury, hexavalent chromium, barium, beryllium and carcinogenic like carbon black and heavy metals. These elements can cause serious problems to the health of a person handling it and can also damage the environment, if not disposed of properly.

In various countries, there are laws for proper disposal of electronic waste and the procedure for disposal is also displayed on the product. But, in our country, in the absence of proper responsibilities and guidelines, disposal of e-waste is nobody's child. I, therefore, request the Government to focus its attention to this serious problem and issue directions for appropriate disposal of e-waste before the situation becomes alarming. Sir, luckily, the hon. Health Ministry is here. I think he should take some precautionary measures.

THE MINISTER OF HEALTH AND FAMILY WELFARE (DR. ANBUMANI RAMDOSS): We will do.

Reservation for Other Backward Classes (OBCs)

DR. K. MALAISAMY (Tamil Nadu): Sir, it is heartening to note that the Government of India have introduced the SC/ST/OBC (reservation in posts and services) Bill, 2004 for reservation in services in the Government of India/Public Sector Undertakings/autonomous bodies under the Government of India. But it is disappointing to note that the Bill is not comprehensive enough to take care of the interests of OBCs as was recommended in the Mandal Commission and Justice Venkatachaliah's Reports. The Bill, in its present form, may not serve the purpose of OBCs at all.

May I appeal to the hon. Minister concerned to kindly arrange for a relook at the Bill and include the following aspects, and then pass it, so